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Canada

Agricultural Situation

Canadian Stocks of Grain and Oilseeds Lower Except Corn 2002

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Report Highlights:

According to Statistics Canada, total stocks, including commercial and on-farm inventories, of all grains and oilseeds except corn were lower than 2001, according to recent surveys of farmers and commercial grain holders across Canada. The stocks figures parallel the production results for the 2001/02 crop year with declines reported for all grains and oilseeds except corn. Corn acreage and yields in Canada were higher than the 2000/01 crop year.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: Nox
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STATISTICS CANADA GRAIN STOCKS AS OF MARCH 31, 2002

According to the Statistics Canada Field Crop Reporting Series No. 3, *Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 2002*, released May 7, total stocks, including commercial and on-farm inventories, of all grains and oilseeds except corn were lower than 2001, according to recent surveys of farmers and commercial grain holders across Canada.

The stocks figures parallel the production results for the 2001/02 crop year with declines reported for all grains and oilseeds except corn. Corn acreage and yields in Canada were higher than the 2000/01 crop year.

Table 1: Total stocks of grain at March 31

	2000/01 (⁰⁰⁰ metric tons)	2001/02	2000/01 % change
All wheat	16,934	13,210	-22.0%
Wheat excluding durum	12,477	10,248	-17.9%
Durum wheat	4,457	2,962	-33.5%
Barley	6,557	6,175	-5.8%
Corn for grain	3,905	4,341	11.2%
Canola	3,274	2,410	-26.4%
Durum wheat	3,318	4,406	32.8%
Oats	1,677	1,073	-36.0%
Soybeans	1,244	930	-25.2%
Flax	567	452	-20.3%
Rye	189	84	-55.6%

Total Stocks of Wheat Drop

Total wheat stocks, including durum, decreased by 3.72 million metric tons (MMT) from March 31, 2001 to 13.21 MMT. Western Canadian on-farm stocks accounted for most of the decline (-28%). Western Canadian farm stocks of wheat fell 3.12 MMT to 8.02 million MMT.

Farm wheat inventories are especially low in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta, where last year's severely dry weather reduced production. The elevator system throughout this region is experiencing lower deliveries as a result of low farm stocks.

Barley Stocks down Slightly Despite Production Drop

Despite a 16% (-2.11 MMT) drop in production in the fall of 2001, total barley stocks are down only 6% to 6.18 MMT.

Record high imports of US corn into the feed deficit region of southern Alberta resulted in a less-than-expected domestic movement and tempered the reduction of barley stocks.

Western Canadian on-farm stocks of barley are down 9% from 2001 to 4.79 MMT. This is the lowest on-farm stock number since the 1995/96 crop year, when stocks were at 4.29 MMT. Given that feed consumption across western Canada has steadily increased over the past six years, the ratio of domestic demand versus stocks has also increased.

Total Oat Stocks near Record Low

On-farm oat stocks were reported at 916,000 metric tons (MT), down 36% from 2001. This is the lowest level since 1995/96, when stocks were reported at 911,000 MT. Commercial stocks are down 34% from 2001 to 157,000 MT. Western Canadian farmers reported on-farm stocks at 830,000 MT, down 520,000 MT from 2001.

Corn Stocks Are up

On-farm corn stocks are up 15% from 2001 to 3.33 MMT - just under the record 3.35 MMT set in 2000.

A better-than-expected corn yield last fall in eastern Canada coupled with increased imports of US corn resulted in higher on-farm stocks. Commercial stocks of corn are unchanged from 2001.

Comments

The March Farm Survey of 12,200 farm operators was conducted by telephone interviews from March 23 to March 31. Farmers were asked to report the amounts of grain in on-farm storage. Commercial stocks of western grains originate from the Canadian Grain Commission. Commercial stocks of corn and soybeans in Ontario and Quebec are obtained by a separate survey of commercial elevators. Commercial stocks of specialty crops originate from a survey of handlers and agents of specialty crops.

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